

to keep the City of Pembroke Pines, Florida strong and prosperous and a wonderful place in which to live and work.

At the helm of this city is Mayor Frank Ortis, a man who has a long history of public service since moving to the community in 1977. He was elected to the Pembroke Pines City Commission in 1996, served as Vice Mayor in 1998 and 2002, and was elected Mayor in 2004.

Mayor Ortis has also been elected President of the Broward League of Cities for the 2005–2006 term of office, appointed to the National League of Cities Information Technologies Steering Committee in 1999 and, as of November 2005, serves as Chair on that committee. He was elected to serve on the United States Conference of Mayors Advisory Board in June 2006.

Other community involvement includes his 2002 election to the Florida League of Cities Florida Municipal Insurance Trust Board, a 2003 appointment to serve on the Florida League of Cities Resolutions Committee, and service on the Florida League of Cities Federal Action Strike Team (FAST). In 2006 he was elected First Vice President of the Florida League of Cities after serving as the League's Second Vice President in 2005. In August 2007 he was installed as President of the Florida League of Cities and served as Chair of the Florida League of Cities' Resolutions Committee at the 2007 FLC Annual Conference. He garnered recognition from the Florida League of Cities by receiving the Cities of Excellence Mayor of the Year Award in 2006.

Other civic involvement includes his 1994, appointment by Governor Chiles to the Broward Community College Board of Trustees where he served as Chairman, his service as President of the Florida State Council of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, President of the Broward County AFL–CIO, Secretary/Treasurer on the Broward County Workforce One Development Board, service on the Executive Board of the Broward County Red Cross, the United Way of Broward County and the Executive Board for the Special Olympics of Broward.

Clearly this is a man who is committed to a community, ensuring its residents have a high quality of life. With that said Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to mayor Frank Ortis, for his immeasurable dedication to the City of Pembroke Pines.

COMMENDING DR. GARRY A. NEIL,
2007 DISCOVERY AWARDEE FOR
THE AMERICAN GERIATRICS SOCIETY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Dr. Garry A. Neil, group president of Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research & Development, for his extraordinary contributions to advancing the health and well-being of American seniors.

Dr. Neil has had a long and distinguished career in medical research. After graduating from the University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine, he performed his post-graduate training in internal medicine and gastro-

enterology at the University of Toronto and performed a postdoctoral fellowship in immunology at the Research Institute of Scripps Clinic.

Prior to joining Johnson & Johnson in 2002, he worked as Vice President of Clinical Research for AstraZeneca, Vice President for Medical and Scientific Affairs at AstraPharmaceuticals, Director of Clinical Research for Gastroenterology and Executive Director for Medical Sciences at Astra Merck, and Vice President and global head of clinical research and development with Merck KGaA and its U.S. subsidiary EMD Pharmaceuticals.

Since coming to Johnson & Johnson, Dr. Neil has worked in several roles to help develop their research program. In fact, he played a substantial role in development of INVEGA, a new medicine for schizophrenia approved in December 2006, as well as many other important drugs. He also a member of the Board of the J&J Development Corporation and Vice Chair of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association (PhRMA) Science and Regulatory Committee, as well as a member of the PhRMA Foundation Board.

Dr. Neil also has a distinguished career in medical academia, currently serving as a member of the Board of Trustees for the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. He has held a number of academic posts at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research in Toronto, the University of Iowa College of Medicine, and the University of Pennsylvania. Furthermore, he has written more than 50 scholarly articles and book chapters.

On October 17th, at the 2007 Lifetime of Caring Gala, the American Geriatrics Society will present Dr. Neil with the 2007 Discovery Award for "his outstanding business, civic and philanthropic leadership, and for Johnson & Johnson's commitment to the well-being of older adults, their families and the communities in which they live." The American Geriatrics Society is an organization of more than 6,700 health professionals devoted to improving the health, independence, and quality of life for people as they age. I join them as they honor a fellow medical professional for his lifetime of work helping seniors and, indeed, people of all ages, live longer, healthier lives.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH BECKMAN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Joseph Beckman as he celebrates an extraordinary milestone, the 100th anniversary of his company, Home Lumber Company, headquartered in Crown Point, Indiana. To commemorate this special occasion, an anniversary celebration took place on Friday, August 24, 2007, at the Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana.

A fifth-generation family-owned business, Home Lumber Company was co-founded by Joe's great-grandfather in 1907. After graduating from Indiana University in 1971, Joe worked outside the company for a brief period before returning to the company in 1973 as a manager in manufacturing, a position he

would hold for 8 years. It was during that time that Joe, highly regarded within the company and his community, was elected president of Home Lumber Company in 1979. From there, Joe went on to purchase the company from his father and other stockholders in 1982.

As president and chief executive officer of Home Lumber Company, Joe has been responsible for an overwhelming expansion of the business. While Joe is quick to credit his outstanding staff for the company's success, it is undoubtedly Joe's leadership, as well as his knowledge of, passion for, and commitment to his trade, that has been the catalyst for such improvements. Since taking over the reins, Joe has spearheaded several major expansions, including the addition of a new lumberyard in Stevensville, Michigan, the relocation of its main facility from Dyer, Indiana, to Crown Point, Indiana, which is where Joe now resides, and a new manufacturing facility in Michigan City, Indiana. However, these expansions, while quite impressive, do not appear to be the end of the company's growth. These new additions, paired with Home Lumber Company, have now become the Lumberplus Companies. Throughout his tenure, Joe has not lost sight of the goals of his father and grandfather, as he has continued to build and improve northwest Indiana by developing over 1,000 commercial and industrial properties throughout Lake County.

Aside from his business, Joe has always made it a point to give back to the community through his involvement with various service organizations, including: the Crown Point Community Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, and the Carmelite Home for Girls. Not only has he been active in these endeavors, but he has also taken a leadership role, serving on several of their executive committees and advisory boards. Furthermore, Joe has been active in the economic and educational development of his community through his service in several capacities, including: president of the Dyer Chamber of Commerce, treasurer of the Dyer Economic Development Steering Committee, president of the Dyer Economic Development Committee, treasurer of the Lake Central Multi-District School Building Corporation, and as a member of the Purdue University Calumet Chancellor's Advisory Committee.

For his service and his commitment to improving northwest Indiana, both economically and socially, Joe has received many accolades throughout the years. Joe was the recipient of the 2005 NLBMA Award for Excellence in Human Resources and the 2006 Business Investment Award by the Michigan City Economic Development Corporation. Quite an impressive accomplishment, in 2001, Joe was also named the Northwest Indiana Small Business Person of the Year and Indiana Small Business Person of the Year, a distinction that earned him recognition from President George W. Bush at a White House reception.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Joseph Beckman and his team on the 100th anniversary of Home Lumber Company. Joseph and the entire staff at Home Lumber Company are to be commended for their dedication to improving northwest Indiana.